

~~SECRET~~OCA FILE Sen Glenn, Stevens
Bond, Reid, MikulskiOCA 88-0925
24 March 1988

OCA

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Pre Trip Briefing on Poland and Czechoslovakia

1. On 24 March 1988 at 1630 in room S407, Senators Glenn, Stevens, Bond, Reid and Mikulski were briefed in preparation for their 1-9 April trip to Poland and Czechoslovakia. Pat Buckheit of Senator Glenn's staff and Steve Cortese and Penelope German of Senate Appropriations Committee will be on the trip and attended the briefing.

[redacted] A/NIO Europe [redacted]

[redacted] of EURA were briefed.

[redacted] was present.

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2. [redacted] opened with an overview of the impact of Gorbachev on Eastern Europe indicating that this was a watershed period--the first since 1953-56. Senator Glenn asked if Gorbachev is here to stay. The briefers indicated he had challenging times ahead. [redacted] discussed the old leadership in Eastern Europe and Gorbachev's attitudes towards them. He indicated that Gorbachev has accelerated expectations for change and this has caused divisions among top leaders. We see an increased chance for upheaval in Eastern Europe in the near term. [redacted]

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3. The briefing on Czechoslovakia covered the leadership; economic and social situation; principal bilateral issues and issues the Czechs are likely to raise with the delegation. Senator Mikulski asked several questions about the role of the church in Czechoslovakia. Mr. Rogers indicated the church is active and the trend is toward more open dissent. The Senators asked about the extent of private enterprise--the answers involved a long discussion of various collective arrangements and the rules governing private enterprise in the country. [redacted]

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4. [redacted] described the potential for unrest in Poland and key players. He laid out the strategies for the Regime, the Church and Solidarity. The Senators engaged in a long discussion of the black market and private enterprise in Poland. The briefers laid out the economic problems facing the regime in the next few years, particularly the \$39

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billion debt. They also discussed the underlying causes of the economic problems and the key points to watch to understand if reforms are being undertaken seriously.

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